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ABSTRACT

A summary of the results of the Metropolitan Upper Primary Reading Test, Form B, which was administered to third grade pupils in Vancouver, is presented. Included are tables of local norms and comparisons of the results of earlier surveys. Because of the large number of perfect scores, it was concluded that the tests were too easy for many pupils. (MS)

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RESEARCH REPORT

SURVEY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN READING IN GRADE 3 OF VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, OCTOBER 26-30, 1970.

April 1, 1971.

E. N. Ellis

Research Report 71-05

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TM 000 921

SURVEY OF ACHIEVEMENT IN READING IN GRADE 3 OF VANCOUVER SCHOOLS, OCTOBER 26-30, 1970.

Summary

This report includes:

(1) a summary of results on the Metropolitan Upper Primary Reading Test, Form B,
(2) tables of local norms,
(3) comparisons of the results with those of other surveys, and
(4) discussion of the findings.

In general, the pupils of Grade 3 performed at levels:
six months above the publisher's norm in "Word Knowledge",
nine months above the publisher's norm in "Word Discrimination", and
three months above the publisher's norm in "Reading Comprehension".

These results are consistent with those of earlier surveys of reading in the primary grades.

Introduction

The Metropolitan Upper Primary Reading Test, Form B, was administered to 5,296 pupils in Grade 3 of Vancouver Schools during the week of October 26-30, 1970. The grade placement of these pupils at that time was 3.2.

Originally, the new "Metropolitan '70" Primary II Test, Form F, had been selected for this survey, but because its shipment could not be guaranteed by October, the earlier edition (Form B) was used instead. This substitute test was not well-suited for third year pupils of Vancouver schools as it failed adequately to test many of the better pupils.

Furthermore, as this form of the test had not been used previously in Vancouver schools, direct comparisons with other surveys are not possible. However, relative standings on other editions that have been used in previous surveys may provide a rough reference scale for interpreting the present level of reading achievement of pupils in Grade 3 of Vancouver Schools.

Summary of Results

The performance of pupils in Grade 3 of Vancouver schools has been summarized in Table I.

TABLE I: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE OF 5,296 PUPILS IN GRADE 3 OF VANCOUVER SCHOOLS ON THE METROPOLITAN UPPER PRIMARY READING TEST, FORM B, OCTOBER 26-30, 1970.
(GRADE PLACEMENT 3.2)

	Word Knowledge	Word Discrimination	Reading Comprehension
Possible Raw Score	37	35	51
Range of Raw Scores	0-37	0-35	0-51
Median Raw Score	32.3	32.8	42.0
Median Standard Score	57	57	54
Percentile Rank of Median*	90th %ile	87th %ile	80th %ile
Grade Equivalent of Median	3.8	4.1	3.5
Stanine Value of Median*	7 (B)	7 (B)	7 (B)
Number of Perfect Scores	296	868	36
Number of Zero Scores	1	3	5

(* in terms of publisher's norms for End of Grade 2)

Tables of Local Norms

TABLE II: RAW SCORES CORRESPONDING TO SELECTED PERCENTILE LEVELS ON THE "WORD KNOWLEDGE", "WORD DISCRIMINATION" AND "READING" SUBTESTS OF THE METROPOLITAN UPPER PRIMARY READING TEST, FORM B, ADMINISTERED TO 5,296 PUPILS IN GRADE III OF VANCOUVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, OCTOBER 26-30, 1970.

Percentile Level	"Word Knowledge"	"Word Discrimination"	"Reading"	Percentile Level
(Possible score)	(37)	(35)	(51)	
99	37	35	50.4	99
95	36.6	35	49.0	95
90	36.1	34.8	47.9	90
80	35.2	34.3	46.2	80
70	34.3	33.8	44.8	70
60	33.3	33.3	43.5	60
50 Median	32.3	32.8	42.0	50
40	30.8	32.1	40.3	40
30	28.9	31.1	38.1	30
25	27.7	30.6	36.6	25
20	26.2	29.9	34.3	20
10	21.9	27.6	27.1	10
05	18.3	25.2	20.9	05
01	11.5	18.3	12.0	01

TABLE III: STANINES, EQUIVALENT LETTER GRADES AND CORRESPONDING RANGES OF RAW SCORES ON THE METROPOLITAN UPPER PRIMARY READING TEST, FORM B, BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF 5,296 PUPILS IN GRADE III OF VANCOUVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, OCTOBER 26-30, 1970.

Stanine	Equivalent Letter Grade	"Word Knowledge"	"Word Discrimination"	"Reading"	Equivalent Letter Grade	Stanine
9	A	37	35	50-51	A	9
8	B+	37	35	48-49	B+	8
7	B	35-36	34	46-47	B	7
6	C+	34	34	44-45	C+	6
5	C	31-33	33	41-43	C	5
4	C-	28-30	31-32	36-40	C-	4
3	D	23-27	29-30	29-35	D	3
2	D-	18-22	25-28	20-28	D-	2
1	E	0-17	0-24	0-19	E	1

Comparisons with Earlier Surveys

TABLE IV: A COMPARISON OF RESULTS ON READING SURVEYS IN GRADE 3 OF VANCOUVER SCHOOLS USING METROPOLITAN READING TESTS

Date	Form of Test	No. of Pupils	Grade Placement	Superiority of Grade Scores over Grace Placement		
				"Average Reading"		
March, 1960.	Elem. "U"	5,074	3.7	+ 1.1		
March 13-17, 1961.	Elem. "U"	5,100	3.7	+ 1.1		
March 19-23, 1962.	Elem. "U"	5,052	3.7	+ 1.2		
				"Word Knowledge"	"Word Discrimination"	"Reading Comprehension"
Nov. 20-24, 1967	Elem. "A"	5,785	3.3	+ 0.5		+ 0.4
Oct. 26-30, 1970	Upper Primary "B"	5,296	3.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.9	+ 0.3

Discussion

The performance of the typical pupil corresponds to a grade-equivalent that is 3 months to 9 months above his grade placement. This result is consistent with the findings of earlier surveys of reading in the primary grades.

In relation to the publisher's norms, Vancouver pupils performed well; typically between the 80th and 90th percentiles.

Vancouver pupils performed less well on the "Reading Comprehension" subtest than on the tests of "Word Knowledge" and "Word Discrimination".

On all of the subtests there were both "zero-scores" and "perfect scores". In general, the tests were "too easy" for many Vancouver pupils as evidenced by the large number of "perfect" scores and the marked skewness of the distributions. The "spreading out" of the low-achievers served to identify pupils in greatest need of help in the reading skills. Specifically, pupils who placed in the two lowest stanine categories received special attention, those in stanine 1 being most seriously in need of help.